



## The Ancient Indian Education System

Dr. Mangesh Pathak, Assistant Professor, Department of Sanskrit, R. S. Mundle Dharampeth Arts and Commerce College, Nagpur

[mangeshnpathak9@gmail.com](mailto:mangeshnpathak9@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Education is important in any country since it promotes knowledge, skills, habits, and values. If we carefully observe the daily and routine everyday social life of the individual, one could notice that the societal values have been diminishing over the past few decades. Therefore, it is necessary, not in terms of moral policing, but to develop holistic citizenship education at present. Future growth in any country depends on its youth. Unfortunately, the youth in India is getting increasingly inclined towards violence, social evils and lack of respect towards the world around them. Our current environment, including the family system, education system and media, has a tremendous influence on today's youth. The Youth generally tend to have a wrong misconception that the men with values are suffering in life. They are also coming under the strong influence of idioms such as 'All is well'. It is not intended to say that they should be pessimistic but they don't bother about means, but mostly stress upon the ends. Under these circumstances, value education is essentially required to provide motivation and guidance to our youngsters. Creation of such values in our youth is the end product of value Education. Recent debates, on one hand, on 'values' in our youth and skill based education that promotes the employment opportunities on the other hand, has revived concern for discussion and deliberation and debate in India. Concrete steps now should be taken to strike the balance between both by any society

**Keywords:** value education, Righteous conduct, spiritual Education, internal cohesion,

"The aim of education is not the acquisition of information, although important, or acquisition of technical skills, though essential in modern society, but the development of that bent of mind, that attitude of reason, that spirit of democracy which will make us responsible citizens."

Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

### Introduction

The concept of 'culture' is generally understood worldwide as a representation of refined living, however in India, the term has become associated with religious and communal connotations to such an extent that some argue it is advisable to exercise care when employing the term. Indian culture is renowned for its immense vibrancy, yet the benefits of implementing modern technology in key sectors, such as agriculture and related fields, are certainly encouraging, while it is contended that complete capitulation to modernisation is undesirable and must be prevented at all costs. This process can be initiated from the early years of a child's education, as soon as they start learning. Examining our past, it is clear that culture has consistently served as the foundation for all socio-economic growth and progress. Our traditional practices have roots in numerous cultures, each with its own unique identity yet sharing considerable common ground.

### The notion of value is a fundamental idea.

The term value refers to something that holds monetary worth, is highly valued, and possesses significance; as a result, it is something for which one is willing to endure difficulties and make sacrifices for. In essence, values constitute a collection of guidelines or standards governing behaviour. According to Dewey, "the value essentially pertains to pricing, esteem, appraisal, and estimation". This refers to the attainment and possession of something, as well as the act of evaluating and making a judgement about the quality and quantity of values relative to another standard. In a society where an individual resides, values are perceived as being highly valued, significant, and deeply respected. Values that are deeply ingrained in a person's life give them a strong sense of character. Personal values encompass one's individual attitudes and judgments, influencing decisions, choices, behaviour, relationships, aspirations, and long-term vision. Their influence extends to our



thoughts, feelings, and actions. They advise us on what actions to take. Values can vary significantly between different societies.

## **Education and Culture are fundamentally intertwined and inseparable entities.**

Considering the long-standing impact of culture on the economy, we will now examine the effects of education on culture, and a well-rounded education system would play a key role in moulding the younger generation into individuals with a solid ethical foundation and a robust sense of social responsibility. Culture and education have a close and interconnected relationship, encompassing numerous areas of overlap and mutual influence. Education is facilitated by culture, and culture is enriched by the values instilled through education. Both elements must be intricately connected and intertwined in numerous ways. Our cultural pride should be evident throughout every stage of a person's development. Primary education lays the foundation and it is here that a child develops an appreciation for the significance of living a values-driven life, as they observe the world around them and the behaviour of those they interact with. These collective factors comprise the personality that emerges throughout the process.

Consequently, it is essential to instil the significance of education and values-based living in order to achieve genuine, long-term growth and development of the nation. The core principles of Gandhi, Tagore, Vinoba Bhave, and numerous other social reformers, focusing on a fair and just way of life, empowering rural communities, voluntary rural revitalisation, and ongoing rural growth, must be incorporated as the primary subjects of the education system. Students learning in an educational environment rooted in robust cultural values will be better equipped to grasp and appreciate the importance of culture within a development setting. An education that lacks cultural context will ultimately lead to obscurity. When referring to the concept of 'education rooted in culture', If education is to drive development forward, it must tap into the values that have proven resilient in the face of adversity - from tyranny and colonialism to other forms of disturbance - and use them to propel the country towards a more inclusive growth path.

## **Culture and cognitive development**

Mounting evidence demonstrates that cultural and ethnic identity diminishes negative experiences, increasing self-confidence, self-esteem, and resiliency among both children and adults. At the collective level, culture is related to the survival of distinct practices and languages, and also the functioning of social and family networks and support systems that may contribute to internal sustainability and vitality of social groups. Many areas of human service have capitalised on these inherent benefits by integrating culturally specific practices or approaches into the delivery of health, social work, education, counselling, and other services. On a global level, diversity is vital to the healthy evolution of any species. As such, cultural diversity contributes to innovation and creativity; the overall advancement of the human race relies on its innovative capacity. All of us are concerned about diminishing moral values and the growing intolerance among communities, castes and groups that make up our great nation. It is also argued that introduction of Culturally-Based Indigenous Language Use, Culturally-Based Pedagogy, Culturally-Based Curriculum, Culturally-Based Patterns of Participation in Leadership and Decision-Making Culturally-Based Methods of Assessing Student Performance has a tremendous influence on the development of cognitive and intellectual skills and the understanding, respect, and application of kinaesthetic activity for physical development.

## **The key characteristics that define a genuine educational experience.**

Man should stand out as a seeker of truth. The student should practice the truths he has learnt and use them for the good of the society. Citizens may be interested in students' problems, but students should not get involved in the citizens' politics. Students should aspire to promote the nation's well-being, security, and happiness. Selflessness, absence of egoism, and true love should be the hallmarks of a true education

A student's life should radiate light all around. Vidya means light. It is to make this



illumination available to the world that students should pursue education. Students should desire to enjoy the bliss derived from Vidya (education) and not the pleasures of Vishaya (worldly objects). Students should aim at being masters of their senses and not servants. A man may be a great Vedantin (philosopher). He may explore many things. He may expound new theories. But he should really, try to find out what he has accomplished as a human being. Without the cultivation of human values, all explorations and speculations of no use.

## Conclusion

The educational system has now gone astray, not just in India but around the world. It is a collective responsibility that has led to this situation. Children have not been adequately raised by their parents. The country's top officials failed to provide them with a positive role model. Teachers have been unsuccessful in fulfilling their duties. With exemplary parents, effective leaders, and exceptional educators in place, ideal pupils will be the result. Individuals with inherently selfless, pure-hearted, and innocent natures are being drawn into the arena of politics, where their minds become increasingly saturated with bitterness and hatred, ultimately resulting in a corruption of their hearts. Under no circumstances should students become involved in politics. Upon finishing one's education, one must either secure employment or launch a venture, or pursue a career in politics. When engaging in politics, your primary goal should be to serve the nation and enhance its well-being and moral fibre.

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